

REMARKS

By this Amendment, the Title and claims 1 and 3-5 are amended and new claims 13-20 are added. Accordingly, claims 1-20 are pending in this application. No new matter is added. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the courtesies shown to Applicants' representative by Examiners Lam and Tran in the November 21 personal interview. Applicants' separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

As requested by the Examiners at the personal interview, independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the processed result signals generated by the image-processing unit are "other than the output signals for the optical signals." Thus, as recited in claim 1, the selecting by the selector is based on the processed result signals, i.e., signals other than the output signals for the optical signals. Applicants respectfully submit that such clarifying amendment does not narrow the claims because the amendment only makes explicit that which was implicitly recited in the claims before amendment.

The clarifying amendment is supported by the specification as originally filed, for example, lines 5-10 on page 27, and thus does not constitute new matter. As described, the image-processing unit 14 provides processed result signals to the signal converter 17, while the raw image data buffer 460 provides output signals for the optical images to the signal converter 17. Thus, the processed result signals and the output signals for the optical images are different signals provided to the signal converter 17.

The Office Action objects to the Title as not being descriptive. The Title is amended to be clearly indicative of the subject matter recited in the claims. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects 1-3 and 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 6,115,066 to Gowda in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,196,938 to Blessinger; rejects claim 4 under

35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Gowda in view of Blessinger and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,636,254 to Onishi. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

As admitted in the Office Action, Gowda fails to disclose a selector as recited in independent claim 1. The Office Action relies on Blessinger to allegedly overcome this admitted deficiency. However, Blessinger does not remedy the deficiency of Gowda with respect to claim 1.

As discussed at the personal interview, Blessinger does not teach selecting "based on the processed result signals for the plurality of consecutive frames obtained by the image-processing unit," as recited in claim 1. As discussed at the personal interview, the "selection" by the multiplexer in Blessinger is not based on processed results.

Although the Examiners tentatively agreed that Blessinger cannot reasonably be considered to teach the features of claim 1 missing from Gowda, the Examiners requested that claim 1 be amended to explicitly state that the processed result signals are different than the output signals for the optical signals. As discussed above, Applicants amend claim 1 to include such clarification to advance prosecution.

Onishi is not relied on and does not make up for the foregoing deficiency of Gowda and Blessinger. Therefore, in view of the agreement by the Examiners that Blessinger does not teach selecting as recited in claim 1, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable over any permissible combination of Gowda, Blessinger and Onishi. Claims 2-12 are patentable over any permissible combination of Gowda, Blessinger and Onishi at least in view of the patentability of claim 1 from which they depend, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:

Petition for Extension of Time

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